

today introducing legislation which would simply clarify current law by stating in no uncertain terms that States have the right to set their own base periods and no Federal actions should preempt that right. I hope that my colleagues will join with me in supporting States' rights and in supporting this legislation.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 11, 1996*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, in the afternoon of Wednesday, July 10, 1996, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber and therefore missed rollcall, vote No. 295, rollcall vote No. 296; rollcall vote No. 297 and rollcall vote No. 298—on final passage of the legislative branch appropriations for fiscal year 1997. I want the record to show that if I had been able to be present in this Chamber when these votes were cast, I would have voted "no" on both rollcall vote No. 295 and rollcall vote No. 296 and "yea" on rollcall votes 297 and 298.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO VFW POST 7980

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 11, 1996*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7980, located in Millstadt, IL. The Millstadt post is celebrating its 50th anniversary on July 20, 1996, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the current and former members for their contributions to the entire community.

I assisted the Millstadt post in securing an M-47 Patton tank in 1989 from the U.S. Department of Defense, and it stands as a reminder of those veterans who have sacrificed a great deal to protect the freedoms we love dearly in the United States of America. It was my privilege to be present at the dedication of the tank in September of that year, and since then it has served as both a tribute and educational tool for the whole region.

The Millstadt post has had a long and distinguished record of service to the community, which we will celebrate on July 20. A variety of post commanders have shepherded the post through several improvements and community projects, including services for local veterans, the purchase of American flag for area events, and a college scholarship program.

I want to congratulate the members of VFW Post 7980 for their continued hard work and dedication to their fellow veterans and their community. Their example stands out as an inspiration to other organizations looking to help their fellow man in our region.

#### A SALUTE TO BABCOCK AND WILCOX FOR WINNING OHIO'S EXPORTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. THOMAS C. SAWYER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 11, 1996*

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a company in my district, Babcock and Wilcox [B&W], for recently receiving the State of Ohio's Exporter of the Year Award. This award is given each year to the Ohio company which best exemplifies the State's commitment to international trade. It is especially prestigious since Ohio is a leading export State, based on the number of manufacturers who export goods and services. It is particularly gratifying to see B&W win this award, since it has a proud tradition in Ohio since 1906.

B&W is internationally renowned and respected for its power and steam generation systems and for its environmental control equipment. This company's worldwide reputation as an engineering and advanced technologies leader helped its power generation group to earn a record \$558 million in overseas contract awards last year, equaling 63 percent of the group's total sales. A highlight was the sale of 10 of the first sulfur dioxide removal systems ever purchased by South Korea as part of its power expansion program. This was also the largest environmental equipment contract ever awarded by an electric utility. Beyond South Korea, B&W has increased its international presence over the last decade by establishing joint venture operations in China, India, Indonesia, Turkey, Mexico, and Egypt. This international expansion has helped the company stabilize its activities in Ohio and has contributed to its growth in my State.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize B&W's superior work in Ohio, and commend this company for winning the State's Exporter of the Year Award.

#### CONCERNS ABOUT WETLAND REGULATIONS

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 11, 1996*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following letter to Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman concerning the increased amount of proposed wetland regulations.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*July 9, 1996.*

Hon. DAN GLICKMAN,  
Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC.

DEAR DAN: While visiting with my constituents, I have been advised of several concerns about wetland regulations, particularly a concern that actions by Federal Agencies with wetland responsibilities and jurisdiction are proposing actions that amount to "regulatory creep" by proposing to expand the amount of lands defined as Federally protected wetlands.

I am told that three changes are being considered by the four Federal agencies with wetland responsibilities (USDA, Corps of Engineers, EPA and U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service) that would expand the criteria used in the Federal delineation process by making changes to the 1987 delineation manual and by adopting a functional assessment process known as the hydrogeomorphic (HGM) approach.

One of the specific concerns has been that NRCS, without public notice and comment, is expanding its list of field indicators of hydric soils, which in turn would result in an expansion of areas and sites that would meet the hydric soil criteria. Mr. Secretary I want to ask whether it is the view of NRCS that all hydric soils are wetland soils? (I understood that wetland soils are a function of wetland hydrology, and that wetland delineation requires the independent verification of all three wetland criteria—soils, water, and plants.)

Secondly, I am told that the Fish and Wildlife Service is about to enter into an agreement to expand the hydrophytic plant list, also without the benefit of public notice and comment. Is the interagency wetland team recommending that Federal agencies be allowed to delineate wetlands based only upon two criteria (soils and plants) instead of the three essential wetland criteria? Such an action would seem to allow regulators to 'assume' hydrology based on the presence of an expanded list of hydric soil indicators and an expanded list of hydrophytic plants. It is already very difficult for many of my constituents to accept wetlands defined under present rules without wetlands being defined without the apparent presence of water for a significant period of time during the year.

Finally, I am curious about the interagency wetland team's implementation of a new methodology for the functional assessment of wetlands using the hydrogeomorphic (HGM) approach. There is a concern that this method would arbitrarily assign functions to various types of wetlands located within a watershed or ecological region by combining the subjective nature of wetlands science with the ambiguity of professional judgment.

Mr. Secretary, I am particularly alarmed by the appearance that no one in the Administration nor the Congress is currently in charge of wetland delineation. With no one designated for a leadership role on this subject I fear that the bureaucracy is once again free to initiate regulatory creep. That would leave the most important regulatory decisions to be accomplished behind the political scene by interagency fiat without public input.

Dan, I would appreciate it very much, and feel more comfortable, if you would take a personal role in overseeing the activities of the interagency wetland group to insure that the general public, including those which would be subject to these regulations, have adequate opportunity for involvement in any changes in wetland regulations.

Thank you very much for your consideration and assistance on this matter.

Best wishes,

DOUG BEREUTER,  
Member of Congress.

#### BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH BENEFITS ALL AMERICANS

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM,

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 11, 1996*

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the increased funding levels contained in the fiscal year 1997 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act for the National Institutes of